

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, 1972

OCTOBER 6, 1971.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. MAHON, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.J. Res. 915]

The Committee on Appropriations, to whom was referred House Joint Resolution 915, making a supplemental appropriation for the fiscal year 1972, for the Department of Labor, and for other purposes, report the same to the House without amendment and with the recommendation that the joint resolution be passed.

This joint resolution includes a supplemental appropriation of \$270,500,000, the amount of the request, for the appropriation account "Federal unemployment benefits and allowances," formerly entitled "Unemployment compensation for Federal employees and ex-service-men." This amount includes \$125 million to compensate for the sum borrowed from the 1972 appropriation to make up a deficit in the 1971 appropriation; \$91,500,000 for unemployment benefits for ex-service-men and former Federal employees in fiscal year 1972; and \$54 million for trade adjustment benefits in fiscal year 1972 under the Trade Ex-

pansion Act of 1962 and the Automotive Products Trade Act of 1965. The following table presents more detailed statistics:

	Appropriation to date	Current estimate	Supplemental request
Trade adjustment benefits:			
1971.....	\$11,905,000	\$31,905,000	\$20,000,000
1972.....	20,000,000	74,000,000	54,000,000
Unemployment benefits for ex-servicemen and former Federal employees:			
1971.....	305,175,000	410,175,000	105,000,000
1972.....	254,500,000	346,000,000	91,500,000
Total:			
1971.....	317,080,000	442,080,000	125,000,000
1972.....	274,500,000	420,000,000	145,500,000
Grand total of supplemental request.....			270,500,000

All of the benefits provided for by this proposed appropriation are required by law and, for practical purposes are beyond control by administrative action or the appropriation process. The Department of Labor estimates that all currently available funds will be exhausted by the end of this week.

The last several budget estimates sent to the Congress for this appropriation account have been badly understated. There seems to be little doubt that this estimate fits the same pattern. For instance, one of the assumptions upon which it is based is that the total unemployment rate will average 5 percent during fiscal year 1972. The committee will expect more realistic estimates in the future.

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